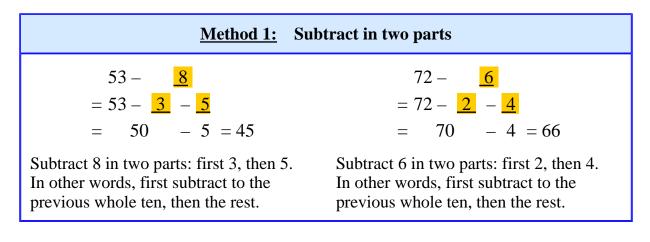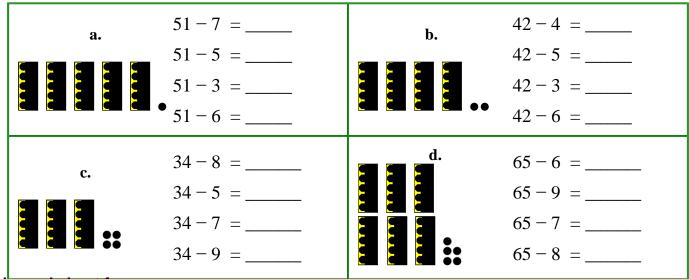# Mental Subtraction Methods

1. Subtract the elevated number in parts: first subtract to the previous whole ten; then the rest.

a. -5 $(51 - \boxed{1}) - \boxed{4} = $ _____	**b.** -7 $(62 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____	**c.** -4 $(33 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____
d. -5 $(92 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____	**e.** -6 $(75 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____	**f.** -7 $(63 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____
g. -7 $(35 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____	**h.** -6 $(74 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____	**i.** -5 $(52 - $ ___ $) - $ ___ $ = $ _____

2. First subtract the balls that are not in the ten-groups.

a.

$51 - 7 = $ _____
$51 - 5 = $ _____
$51 - 3 = $ _____
$51 - 6 = $ _____

b.

$42 - 4 = $ _____
$42 - 5 = $ _____
$42 - 3 = $ _____
$42 - 6 = $ _____

c.

$34 - 8 = $ _____
$34 - 5 = $ _____
$34 - 7 = $ _____
$34 - 9 = $ _____

d.

$65 - 6 = $ _____
$65 - 9 = $ _____
$65 - 7 = $ _____
$65 - 8 = $ _____

Math Mammoth Add & Subtract 2B (Blue Series)

Method 2:   Use known subtraction facts

Since 14 – 6 = 8, we know that the answer to 74 – 6 will end in 8,
but it will be in the sixties (sixty-something). So it is 68.

Since 15 – 8 = 7, we know that the answer to 55 – 8 will end in 7,
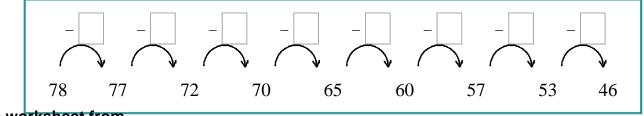but it will be in the forties (forty-something). So it is 47.

3. Subtract. Compare the problems.

a. 18 – 4 = _____	**b.** 14 – 9 = _____	**c.** 17 – 8 = _____	**d.** 12 – 9 = _____
48 – 4 = _____	24 – 9 = _____	27 – 8 = _____	52 – 9 = _____
78 – 4 = _____	44 – 9 = _____	37 – 8 = _____	32 – 9 = _____
e. 11 – 6 = _____	**f.** 15 – 9 = _____	**g.** 13 – 8 = _____	**h.** 16 – 8 = _____
51 – 6 = _____	65 – 9 = _____	33 – 8 = _____	86 – 8 = _____
71 – 6 = _____	45 – 9 = _____	93 – 8 = _____	36 – 8 = _____

4. Now you think of the "helping problem" yourself.

a. 34 – 5 = _____	**b.** 65 – 9 = _____	**c.** 51 – 8 = _____	**d.** 62 – 7 = _____
73 – 7 = _____	36 – 8 = _____	93 – 6 = _____	83 – 8 = _____

5. **a.** Terry is on page 56 of her book. The book has a total of 92 pages.
   How many pages does she have left to read?

   b. Terry reads 9 pages more. Now how many
   pages does she have left to read?

6. Find what was subtracted.

78   77   72   70   65   60   57   53   46

53

Method 3: Add.

You can "add backwards". This works well if the two numbers are close to each other.

Instead of subtracting, think how much you need to add to the number being subtracted (the subtrahend) in order to get the number you're subtracting from (the minuend).

Think: $84 + \boxed{} = 92$

(84 and how many more makes 92?)

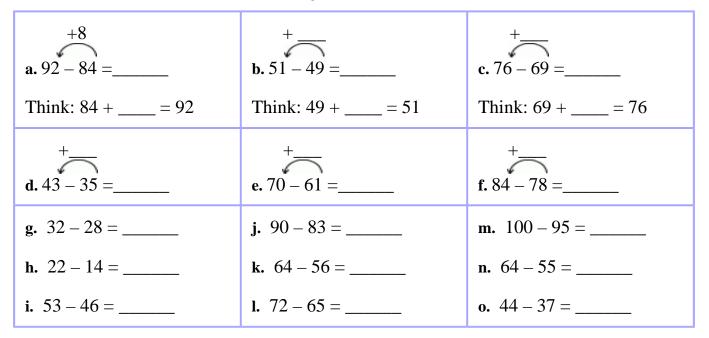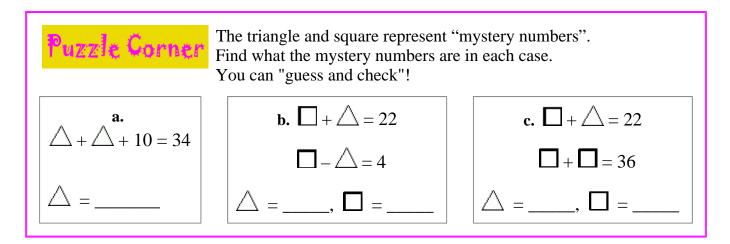$92 - 84 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$

Think: $25 + \boxed{} = 75$

(25 and how many more makes 75?)

$75 - 25 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$

7. To find these differences, think of adding more.

$+8$ **a.** $92 - 84 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ Think: $84 + \underline{\hphantom{00}} = 92$	$+\underline{\hphantom{0}}$ **b.** $51 - 49 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ Think: $49 + \underline{\hphantom{00}} = 51$	$+\underline{\hphantom{0}}$ **c.** $76 - 69 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ Think: $69 + \underline{\hphantom{00}} = 76$
$+\underline{\hphantom{0}}$ **d.** $43 - 35 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$	$+\underline{\hphantom{0}}$ **e.** $70 - 61 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$	$+\underline{\hphantom{0}}$ **f.** $84 - 78 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$
g. $32 - 28 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ **h.** $22 - 14 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ **i.** $53 - 46 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$	**j.** $90 - 83 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ **k.** $64 - 56 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ **l.** $72 - 65 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$	**m.** $100 - 95 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ **n.** $64 - 55 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$ **o.** $44 - 37 = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$

Puzzle Corner The triangle and square represent "mystery numbers". Find what the mystery numbers are in each case. You can "guess and check"!

a.
$\triangle + \triangle + 10 = 34$

$\triangle = \underline{\hphantom{0000}}$

b. $\square + \triangle = 22$

$\square - \triangle = 4$

$\triangle = \underline{\hphantom{000}}, \quad \square = \underline{\hphantom{000}}$

c. $\square + \triangle = 22$

$\square + \square = 36$

$\triangle = \underline{\hphantom{000}}, \quad \square = \underline{\hphantom{000}}$